



Poverty & Social Exclusion Proofing Statement

The Blanchardstown Area Partnership draws its understanding of poverty and social exclusion and poverty and social exclusion from its experience to date guided by the work of the National Anti Poverty Strategy, Partnership 2000 and the European Social Agenda.

In this our understanding of social exclusion recognises that poverty inequality involve isolation, powerlessness and exclusion from the normal activities in society, Moreover, dominant values and norms may also marginalize and exclude certain groups from political, cultural, and civil participation in society on the grounds of their identity.

We recognise that the unequal distribution of resources and opportunities within Irish society contributes to poverty and social exclusion. Therefore in order to promote social inclusion measures, we believe there is a need to tackle deep-seated structural inequalities that create and perpetuate poverty, inequality and social exclusion.

The Partnership's experience to date has illustrated that those groups that are most likely to experience discrimination and inequality are also those groups that are likely to experience poverty and social exclusion. As such we see the rejection of any form of exclusion or discrimination and the achievement of gender equality as being essential values underpinning social cohesion.

In recognising the complex nature and multiple facets of social exclusion, the Blanchardstown Area Partnership social exclusion strategies are inextricably linked to its equality agenda reflecting the intersection between poverty, social exclusion and inequality.

Strategy

The Partnership recognises that equality and full participation in society does not just happen. Social Inclusion is achieved as a result of action. This means placing poverty and social inclusion considerations at the centre of decision making in policy design and planning, implementation, review, outputs and impact indicators across all aspects of the Partnership's work.

As a means of progressing the Partnership's work to ensure full social inclusion, our strategic plan is divided into seven key areas of work - Community Development, Built Environment, Youth Development, Education, Family Support and Childcare, and Economic Development. In the seven areas identified there is a common thread - the aim of tackling poverty and severe social exclusion.

The Partnership is committed to underpinning our work with the following principles:

- Bringing opportunities closer to those who are most distanced from them.
- Integrating all service provision - public, voluntary, community & private - to benefit the entire community.
- Influencing state agencies and government to secure and direct resources for Blanchardstown.
- Ensuring communities are at the heart of decision-making.
- Using our resources to best advantage and ensuring our work is accountable at all times.
- Developing the Partnership's working structures and supports to better reflect community concerns.

To this end of the Plan Implementation Boards will work with the Partnership staff and Board to ensure that poverty and social exclusion considerations underpin their work plans. This will be tailored to the specific requirements and work plans of each PIB to maximise its effectiveness and ensure that the Partnership produces an integrated response to advance the social inclusion agenda.

Partnership 2000 defines social exclusion as:

Cumulative marginalisation from production (employment), from consumption (income poverty), from social networks (community, family and neighbours), from decision-making and from an adequate quality of life.

In developing the National Anti Poverty Strategy the following definition of poverty and social exclusion was agreed: People are living in poverty if their income and resources - material, cultural and social are so inadequate as to preclude them from having a standard of living, which is regarded as acceptable by Irish society generally.

As a result of inadequate income and resources, people may be excluded and marginalised from participating in activities that are considered the norm for other people in society. The European Social Policy Agenda 2000 see the rejection of any form of exclusion or discrimination and the achievement of gender equality as essential values underpinning social cohesion.